

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3-85 are pending. Claims 3, 25, and 47 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 3-85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants are amending all independent claims.

Double Patenting

In section 10 and 11 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 25, and 47 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 8, and 11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,056. Applicants respectfully submit that upon indication of allowable subject matter for claims rejected under double patenting, a terminal disclaimer will be submitted.

Rejection Under §103(a)

In sections 12 and 13 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,596 to Wiser et al. (hereinafter *Wiser*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,304 to Clawson (hereinafter *Clawson*).

Applicants submit that claim 3, as amended, is patentable over *Wiser* and *Clawson*, whether considered independently or in combination, by at least reciting:

A method comprising:
a step for conveying electronic digital data in a first protected transfer to deliver a permit; ~~and~~
a step for conveying electronic digital data in a second protected transfer to deliver a product; and
a step for reconciling complete transactions from at least one of incomplete transactions and from events that indicate intentional interference.

In contrast, neither *Wiser* nor *Clawson* teach or suggest the claimed step for reconciling. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as originally filed at least at page 6, lines 18 – 26. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable over the cited references. Further, claim 4 should be patentable at least by virtue of its dependency to claim 3. Further, as all the other independent claims, as amended, recite a similar limitation, they should be patentable for at least the same reason as should their dependent claims by virtue of their dependency.

New Claims

New claims 86 and 87 correspond with claims 1 and 25. Applicants respectfully submit that as these claims are step for and means for claims, limitations from the specification should be read into these claims. Accordingly, the limitations of "provides a barrier to unauthorized access by omitting information that would facilitate further access if such information were available in association with the transfer" and "when source identification is not apparent to a receiver or receiving process, the protected transfer is an anonymous transfer from the point of view of the receiver or receiving process" should be read into these claims.

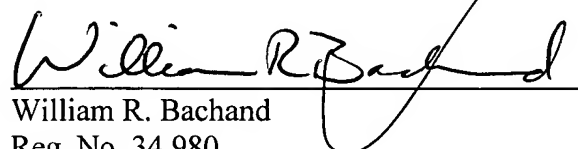
Conclusion

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

While no fees are believed due, Applicant hereby requests that any other required fee to maintain pendency of this case, except for the Issue Fee, be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3878.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 26, 2004


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